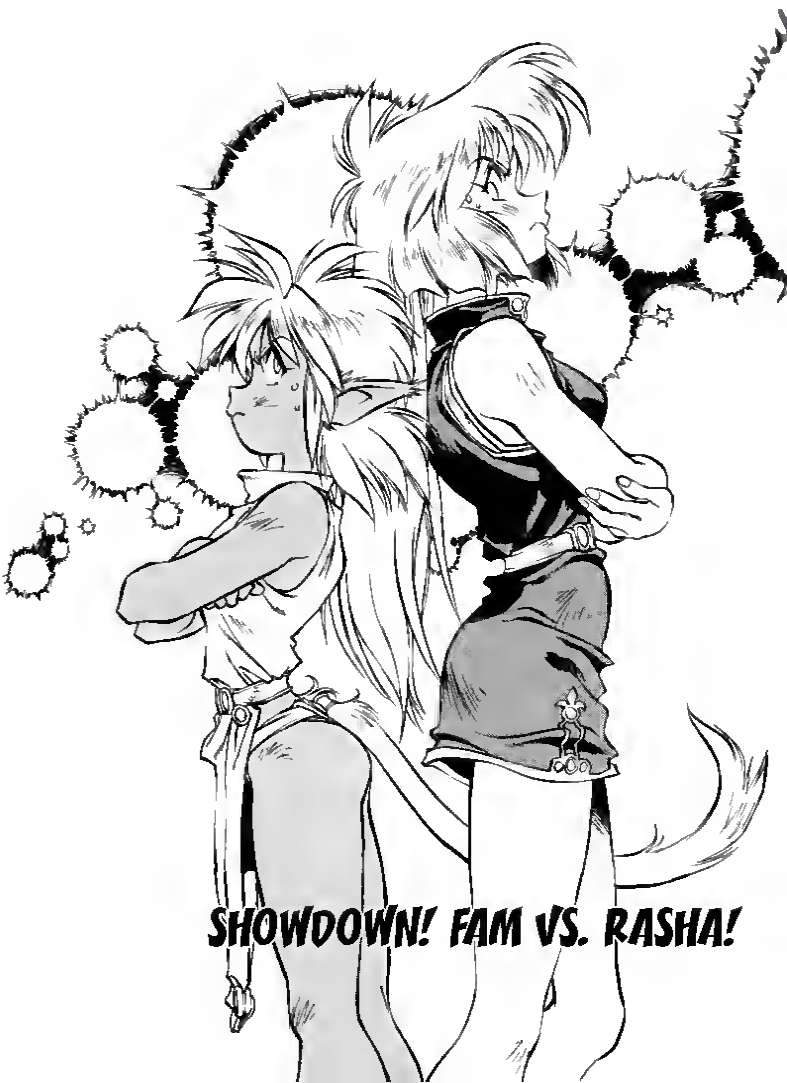


SHOWDOWN! FAM VS. RASHA!

STAY OUT OF GROWN-UP BUSINESS!
YOU BRAT!
UGGH!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? DO YOU CALL THIS FUNNY THING FOOD?
I'M OLDER THAN YOU!
CHOMP!
I CAN HANDLE THIS!

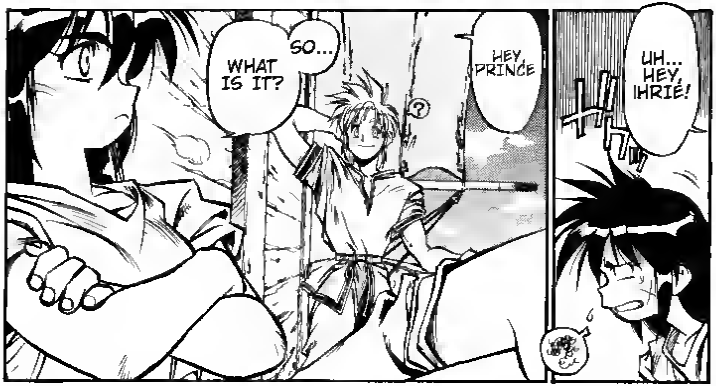
DON'T ASK

GAAHH!!
LET GO!
YOU STUPID ANIMAL!
YOU COOKED BREAKFAST, SO I'M COOKING DINNER!
NO WAY! ESPECIALLY NOT AFTER WHAT YOU MADE!
I'LL CRUSH THE DUMB THING!
YOU MEANIE! I WORKED REALLY HARD TO MAKE IT FOR LYLE!
NO ONE IS GOING TO EAT THAT CRAP, ESPECIALLY NOT LYLE!
IT'S NOT EVEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR MIGUEL!
LYLE THIS, LYLE THAT! ENOUGH ALREADY!
SHUT UP AND COOK SOMETHING! I'M STARVING!

ENOUGH
ドカ
ベラァア

WE'RE ALL GOING TO SUFFER IF THINGS GO ON LIKE THIS.
HMPH!
HM?
AGAIN?

.....
THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY TO BEAT LUGDULL!
I NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN...


SO...
WHAT IS IT?
?
HEY, PRINCE
UH... HEY, IHRIE!

OH?
WELL, THAT ASIDE...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BOTHER YOU
I JUST WANTED TO GET SOME FRESH AIR!
NO, I...
EVEN GOT A FULL CREW.
HOW DID YOU AFFORD IT?
YOU SURE GOT THIS BOAT TOGETHER QUICKLY.
I SOLD A RING WITH A HUGE JEWEL SET IN IT.
WELL... EH?
.....
IT WAS THE ROYAL SEAL OF MY COUNTRY.
WORTH MUCH MORE THAN A BOAT
C'MON, GET REAL!
YOU BOUGHT A BOAT AND CREW WITH A RING?
Pfft!
Ha ha ha ha ha ha!

WHAA-AAT?!
WH...
AH!
OH...
NOW I UNDER-STA...
...ND.
ARE YOU HURT?
ARE...
JEEZ!
ARE YOU CRAZY?! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
IF IT'S TO DEFEAT LUGDULL, I'M PRE-PARED TO DO ANY-THING.
THAT IS MY ONLY MISSION IN LIFE!
GETTING SOME ALONE TIME WITH LYLE!!
HM...
AHHH! IHRIE, YOU SNEAK!

WAH!
HOW I SOLD MY...
WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO DISCUSS OUR STRATEGY TO BEAT THAT OLD WIZARD!
ズン ズン ズン
WEREN'T YOU MAKING DINNER?
I'M MAKING IT TOMORROW!
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS BAD! LYLE ISN'T A PRINCE ANYMORE, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW FAM'S GOING TO TAKE IT IF SHE FINDS OUT!
?
?
?
YES, HIGH MAGIC!
LOWER SPIRITS ARE SUBORDINATE TO HIGHER SPIRITS.
THEY'LL NEVER TURN AGAINST HIGH SPIRITS.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE USES HIGH MAGIC!
HIGH MAGIC?
OUR MAGIC BUT HAS NO EFFECT ON THAT MAN...

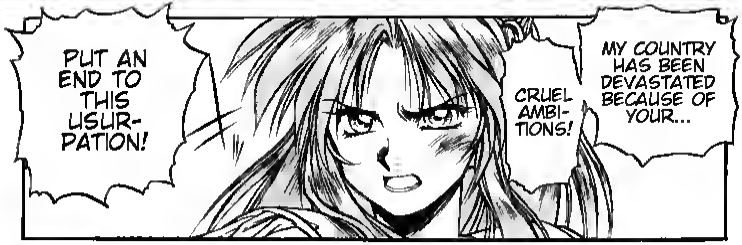
I SUPPOSE IF I CAN KEEP HIS SPIRITS DISTRACTED WITH MY OWN MAGIC... YOU CAN USE THE OPENING TO ATTACK HIM.
LET'S SEE
SO, WE CAN'T BEAT LUGDULL AS LONG AS HE CAN USE HIGH MAGIC.
WHAT CAN WE DO?
IHRIE
...
IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND! WITHOUT HIS SPIRITS, HE'S JUST A HELPLESS OLD MAN!
EHH?
EH...?
WHEN DID I SAY I COULDN'T USE HIGH MAGIC LIKE LUGDULL CAN?
DIDN'T YOU SAY OUR MAGIC WON'T WORK?
IHRIE, DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

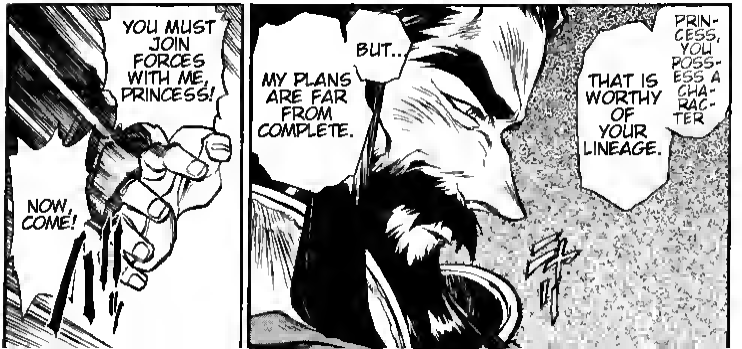
HOW'D YOU LEARN IT?
AWE-SOME!
UH HUH! YOU BET! BUT JUST ONE.
A-ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
OF COU-RSE! ONE DAY, I FOUND A BOOK OF HIGH MAGIC SPELLS!
WELL, SINCE IT WAS MY TEACHER WHO CURSED ME...
THE CURSE AFFECTING ME IS THE SAME TYPE OF MAGIC HE USES, RIGHT?
AT ANY RATE, I'M SURE IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT!
MY TEA-CHER CAU-GHT ME AND CON-FISCATED THE BOOK, BUT NOT BEFORE I LEARNED THE SPELL!
I READ IT, LOO-KING FOR A WAY TO GET RID OF MY CURSE, WHEN I FOUND AN INTER-ESTING SPELL
YOU TEA-SE!
THAT IS...
ER...
WELL?
WELL?
SO WHAT KIND OF SPELL DID YOU LEARN?

FA-
TH-
ER...
EVERYTHING YOU HELPED TO BUILD HAS FALLEN TO RUIN.
I NEED YOU BY MY SIDE...
IT'S ALL THE MORE DISTRESSING WITHOUT MY BELOVED...

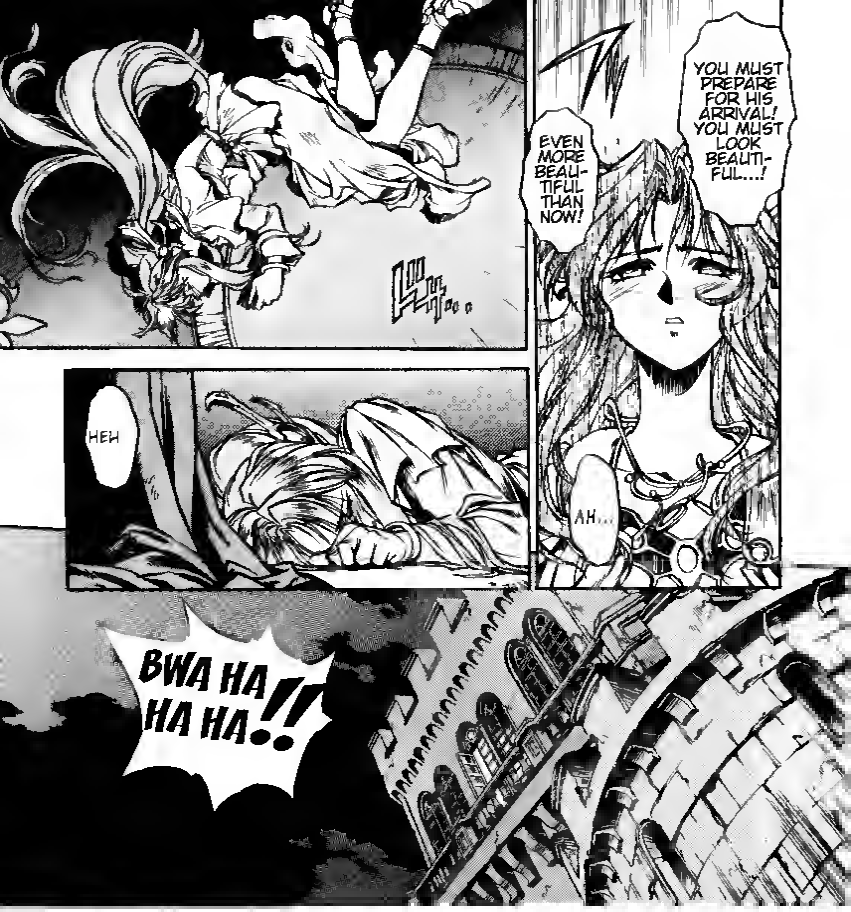
LYLE!!
OPEN UP!
YES, SIR!

PRIN-CESS MER-IA?
HOW ARE YOU THIS DAY...
!


PUT AN END TO THIS USUR-PATION!
CRUEL AMBI-TIONS!
MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN DEVASTATED BECAUSE OF YOUR...


YOU MUST JOIN FORCES WITH ME, PRINCESS!
NOW, COME!
BUT..
MY PLANS ARE FAR FROM COMPLETE.
PRIN-CESS, YOU POSS-ESS A CHA-RAC-TER THAT IS WORTHY OF YOUR LINEAGE.

I WILL NEVER JOIN YOU!
STAY AWAY!
YOU MUST LEAVE!
AH? LYLE IS ALIVE?
ALI-VE...
YES... AND HE WILL SOON ARRIVE AT THIS CASTLE...
TO GET YOUR BELOVED LYLE.
YOU SEE, I WORKED QUITE HARD...
FEH.
YOU ARE MIS-TAKEN, PRIN-CESS.


YOU MUST PREPARE FOR HIS ARRIVAL! YOU MUST LOOK BEAUTIFUL....!
EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN NOW!
AH...
HEH
BWA HA HA HA!!

77

MISS RASHA IS ALWAYS SCOLDING HER
SHE MUST BE VERY TIRED.
SHEESH, FAM! FIND SOME OTHER PLACE TO SLEEP!
SURE, WHAT?
LYLE... CAN YOU TELL ME SOME-THING?
ABOUT MERIA...
MERIA IS THE PRINCESS OF THE NEIGHBO-RING COUNTRY, ALACARIA
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, ALACARIA AND LIAN WERE ALLIES AND HELD MANY SHARED EVENTS
SINCE CHILDHOOD, IT WAS MY GREATEST JOY TO MEET WITH MERIA IN SUCH FESTIVALS
MERIA...

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT AS A CHILD, BUT AS I GREW OLDER, I FELT THAT A STRONG BOND HAD FORMED.
OUR PARENTS ARRANGED A MARRIAGE TO BRING OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER. WE HAPPILY ACCEPTED!
I DIVE FINALLY DONE IT
BUT FATE HAS BEEN CRUEL TO US
YET, AS LONG AS MERIA IS ALIVE, THERE IS HOPE I'LL FIGHT TO FREE HER FROM THAT WIZARD!
...
NO WAAAY! IS THIS PRINCE FOR REAL? HE SOUNDS LIKE CAME OUT OF A F-PPY PLAY!
AND HE'S EVEN ENGAGED TO A PRINCESS! POOR FAM...
ZZ...
HEEY! DINNER TIME!
IF YOU DON'T EAT IT NOW, I WILL!

HMPH!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO COOK, RASHA!
MMM, THAT SMELLS WONDER-FUL!
MY, IS YOUR PART-NER'S COOKING SO BAD, IHRIE?
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT!
I TOOK SPECIAL CARE WITH TONIGHT'S MEAL.
BEFORE WE START, I HAVE A PRO-POSAL.
AH...
RASHA! IT LOOKS DELICI-OUS!
THANKS! I HOPE IT COM-PARES TO ROYAL DISHES!

WHAT IS IT? YOU BETTER MAKE IT QUICK.
THE FOOD WILL GET COLD.
ヒヒ
WELL, I KINDA NEED SOMETHING FROM RASHA AND MIGUEL.
WHAT IS IT...?
WE ALL KNOW THAT LUGDULL IS VERY POWERFUL.
RIGHT NOW, WE AREN'T PREPARED ENOUGH TO DEFEAT HIM.
SO? WHAT IS IT?
WELL, I THINK MIGUEL SHOULD TEACH ME AND LYLE SWORDSMANSHIP, AND RASHA SHOULD TEACH FAM MAGIC.
WE WILL REACH LEGUANOS IN 2 WEEKS.
WE MUST USE THIS TIME TO BECOME STRONGER TO FACE LUGDULL!
EHH, WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO-
UGH!

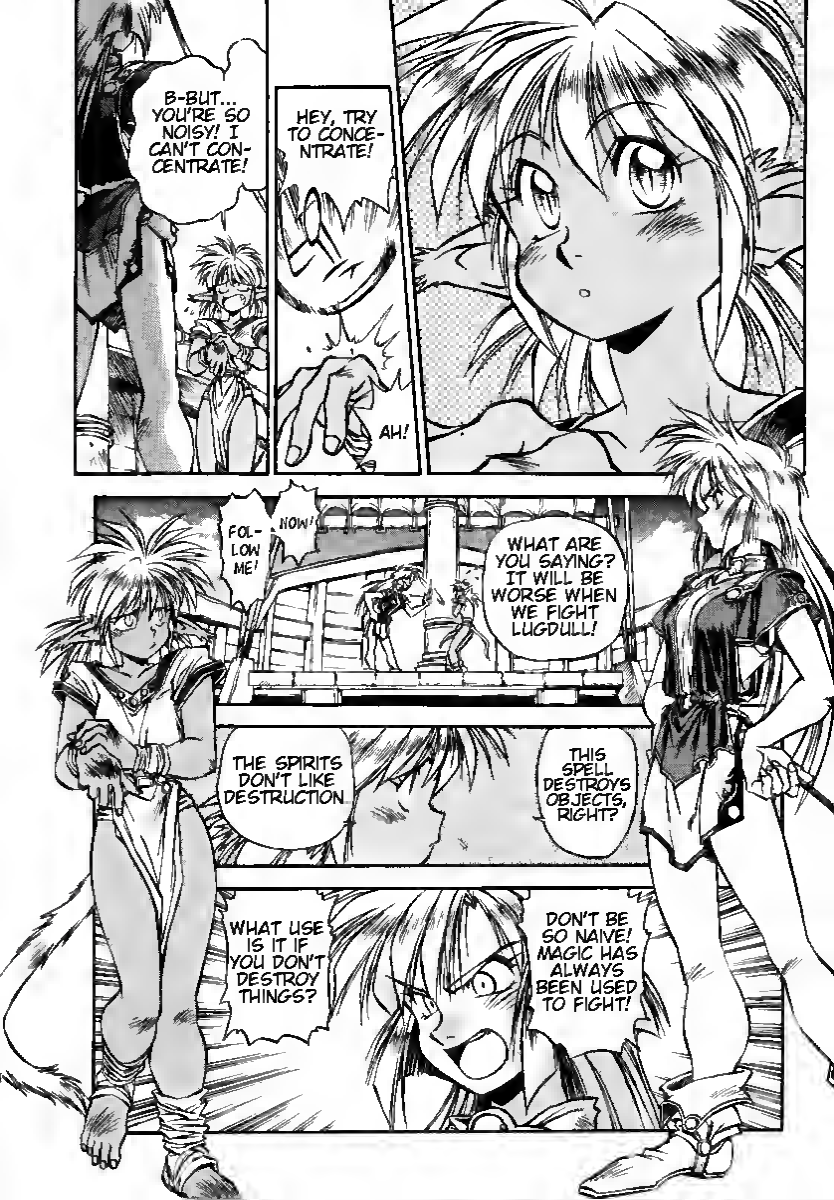
I'M DIGGING IN!
HEH, NICE COOKING!
IHRIE, PASS THE BREAD!
NOW, LET'S START EATING!
I THINK THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! WE CAN START TOMORROW!
BLEECH!
LYLE! YOU BETTER NOT EAT ANY OF IT OR YOU'LL GET SICK!
SOMEONE SURE LIKES TO PILE ON THE SALT.
WELL, WELL... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE HERE?
EWW, WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S VERY... PECULIAR.
N- NO WAY!
EHHH-HHH?!
EH...
EH...

WHAT DID YOU HAVE THERE?
WHAT WAS THAT?
AH HA HA...
N-NO-THING
コロコロ...
ドカン
!!!
YOU LITTLE BRAT! I'LL KILL YOU!
SO-RRY!
ドドドド
ゴトゴト

OW!
THAT HURT!
YOU'RE TERRIBLE!
YOU CAN'T BLOCK A DIRECT FRONTAL ATTACK UNLESS YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOUR FOE!
YOU SHOULD TRY TO SIDE-STEP THE ATTACK OR PARRY IT!
THEN YOU CAN TRY TO DISARM YOUR FOE!
GOT IT, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO ROUGH!

THANKS, MIGUEL!
YOU'RE HOPELESS! CAN'T YOU JUST LISTEN?
PRINCE, IT'S YOUR TURN!
AGH, FORGET IT!
JUST ASK ONE OF THOSE SAILORS TO TEACH YOU!
WHAT ABOUT ME?
WAIT!
THEY'LL MAKE PERFECT SPARRING PARTNERS!
JUST WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, FELLA?
HEY!

YOU MAKING FUN OF US?
I THOUGHT YOU SAILOR FOLK LIKE PLAYING AROUND WITH GIRLS!
BE GRATE-FUL!
WE CAN'T EVEN TELL IF THAT PERSON IS A GIRL OR A BOY!
WHAA-AAAT?!
WHA-
IDIOT! IT'S DANGEROUS TO SWING THAT THING AROUND LIKE THAT!
WHO'S A GUY?! C'MERE AND SAY THAT TO MY FACE!
MUCH BETTER, IHRIE! THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!


B-BUT... YOU'RE SO NOISY! I CAN'T CONCENTRATE!
HEY, TRY TO CONCENTRATE!
AH!
FOLLOW ME! NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT WILL BE WORSE WHEN WE FIGHT LUGDULL!
THE SPIRITS DON'T LIKE DESTRUCTION
THIS SPELL DESTROYS OBJECTS, RIGHT?
WHAT USE IS IT IF YOU DON'T DESTROY THINGS?
DON'T BE SO NAIVE! MAGIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN USED TO FIGHT!

DO YOU THINK WE'LL BEAT LUGDULL BY PREDICTING THE WEATHER?
DOLT!
WITH MY MAGIC I CAN TALK TO ANIMALS AND SPIRITS!
I CAN EVEN PREDICT THE WEATHER!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I-I GUESS
UGH!
WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK YOUR PARTNER ASKED ME TO TEACH YOU? YOUR MAGIC IS USELESS!
IDIOT! YOU'VE LEARNED NOTHING!
E-ER... UMM... WHAT DO I DO?
IF YOU UNDERSTAND, LET'S START!
MORNING TO NIGHT, TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING!
AND DINNER IS ALWAYS THE SAME!

I CAN EVEN STOMACH FAM'S COOKING LIKE THIS!
THAT'S MEAN!
HA HA HA...!!
I'M SO SICK OF FISH!
WELL, IT'S JUST ONE MORE DAY.
TOMOR-ROW... WE'LL REACH LEGUA-NOS!
AT LAST...

HEY, CHEER UP!
I LEARNED TWO SPELLS!
HA...
HAH.
POINT OF NO RETURN
YOU'RE SUCH AN OPTIMIST, LYLE.
IF WE DON'T DEFEAT LUGDULL NOW, THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY!
WE CANNOT BE DISCOURAGED NOW!
BUT I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO USE THEM
WE DID OUR BEST!
SHOULDN'T WE TRY TO GET IT BACK?
BUT, LYLE! WHAT ABOUT YOUR SWORD?
IHRIE, CAN YOU REALLY STOP THAT MAN'S MAGIC WITH THE HIGH MAGIC YOU TALKED ABOUT?
IT'S TRUE!

FAM, WHAT DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU DANCE IN THE WIND AND SING YOUR SPELLS?
EH?
OF COURSE!
BUT FIRST, I HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO USE IT PROPERLY.
OH?
IT'S LIKE WHEN I'M TALKING WITH LYLE AND IHRIE.
USUALLY...
WE'RE LANDING TOMORROW!
HAVE A GOOD REST!
OH, JUST CURIOUS.
WHY?
THAT'S NO ANSWER!
KE KE KE!

LESUANOS!
FINALLY! WE'VE ARRIVED!
THERE IT IS...
!!
LAND AHOY!

Before high school, I thought the fantasy genre was only for children, so I didn't find it very appealing. One day, an RPG video game called "Valkyrie no Bouken" changed my preconceptions. The game's premise is very simple: defeat the monsters that appear before you on your quest to recover the Key of Time. But at the time, I found myself more captivated by it than anything else, it was the touchstone for my burgeoning appreciation of the field of fantasy. What drew me in most about the game is its broad world that whet my appetite for exploration.

I wanted all my works to incorporate this kind of world where my characters traveled freely between varied locations.

In this volume, Ihrie & Fam will begin their adventures. Ihrie is motivated by her eagerness to remove a strange curse, and Fam hopes to find her Prince Charming, and although their goals are different, the pair is inseparable in their travels.

I want to thank many people for their support and critiques, and must also apologize for the trouble I have caused to others. So thank you very much Mr. K, for patiently waiting for the manuscript I gave just before the delivery date, the drafting department at RPG Magazine Hobby Japan and also to the press. Likewise, many thanks to the readers who eagerly awaited the release of this volume.

Thank you all.

Kunihiko Tanaka

To be continued

Ruin Explorers

by Kunihiko Tanaka

Presented by

Bardass Scanlations

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NOTES

LYLE'S KINGDOM IS NAMED [リーアン], WHICH ADV TRANSLATES AS "LYON." AGAIN, THAT'S CLEARLY AN "A" AND NOT AN "O," SO I'M GOING WITH "LIAN."

MERIA WAS NEVER NAMED IN THE OVA, NEITHER WAS HER KINGDOM, [アーラカルワ]. THE CLOSEST EQUIVALENT WESTERN TRANSLITERATION I COULD FIND ON THE NET WAS "A LA CARTE," WHICH SHARED ALL BUT THE LAST CHARACTER. SO I FIGURED, I'LL USE THAT AS A BASE. AND THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP WITH "ALACARUA."

THIS CONCLUDES VOLUME 1. A VOLUME 2 WAS NEVER RELEASED, EVEN IN JAPAN. HOWEVER, THE CONCLUSION WAS PRINTED IN RPG MAGAZINE AND REPRINTED FOR THE RPG MAGAZINE RUIN EXPLORER SPECIAL PLUS ISSUE, WHICH IS WHAT I WILL BE USING FOR THE REMAINING CHAPTERS. THEY WON'T BE MY SCANS, BUT SCANS I FOUND ON A CERTAIN WEBSITE.